k Dickson G-5 (1929-47) 1951 MI 1 Kuwait MI 1
Bedouins MJ4
Saudi Arabia MJ1

B 862 619 784

turned into a dhub by the Prophet. The true reason for the sanctity of the dhub is obscure.

AL KHASWI

K 136 SA 136

Al Khaswi is a small lizard delicately built; when full grown does not exceed 7 inches in length. It is commonly met everywhere in the desert of North-East Arabia, and is very fast. It may be seen rushing about at lightning speed from one *'arfaj* bush to another, switching its long thin tail from side to side. It has a fine skin, spotted on the back, and is greyish white in colour.

Another variety of this lizard has lines along its back, and is pale salmon pink in colour under the tail. Among the Shammar Badawin the same lizard is known under the name of *Al Sulaimaniyah.*

[B 104]

ROLLER BEETLE

The desert is full of roller beetles, especially where Badawin camps exist. This beetle is locally known as *Abu Jalla* (Father of camel manure) or Abu Ja'al.*

It usually appears in spring, and is to be seen everywhere, rolling fresh bits of manure (camel, horse, donkey or even goat) into a perfect ball, and carting it off backwards at an amazing and feverish pace. When the beetle comes to a nice soft spot, it starts digging a sloping hole in mad fashion, sufficiently large to take its manure ball. When the hole is ready it rolls the ball down the slope of the hole, where it comes to rest 8 to 10 inches from the entrance. The digging is done with the beetle's strong fore-feet, and to get earth out it turns round and shovels out earth with head and snout. It is extremely fussy, and works as if life depended on getting the hole dug in a minimum of time. When rolling the ball along, the beetle's hind quarters and legs are cocked up against the ball and guide the latter in the proper direction, the beetle's strong head and claws which are on the ground do the pushing. The roller beetle always moves backwards at an amazing pace if ground is smooth.

It usually has several small fly-parasites on its back, which appear to have their abode in the join between head and body.

* Roller beetle appeared in 1937 on February 19th and just after good rain. Clearly they come out of the ground where they hibernate for six months.